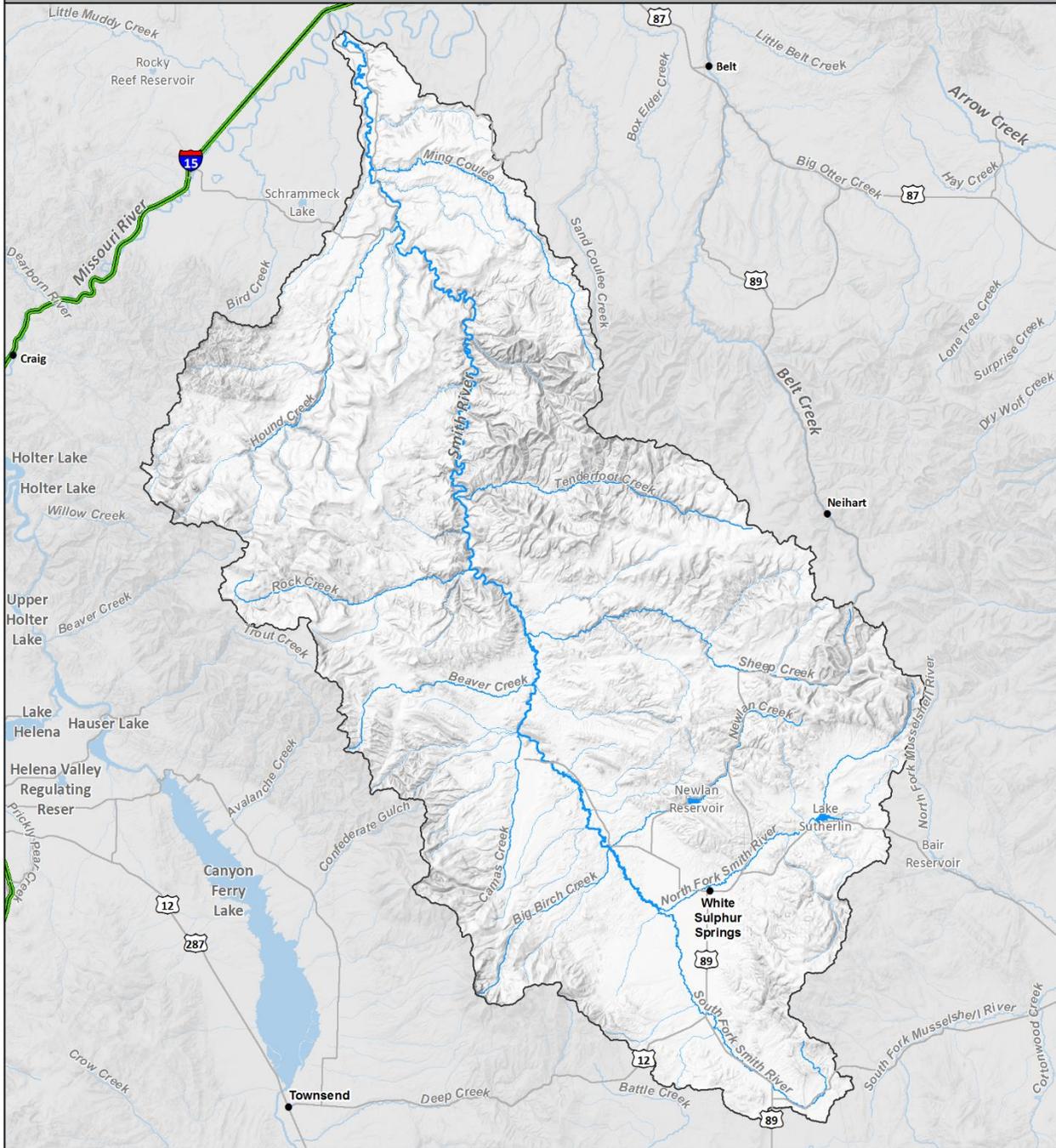


# Smith River Drainage

# MONTANA FWP



-  Tribal Lands
-  Drainage Boundary



Map Produced by:  
ASP - Geographic Data Services  
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Administrative boundaries and FWP Lands data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Background Imagery from ESRI



# Smith River Drainage

## **Physical Description**

The Smith River drainage lies in west-central Montana in Meagher and Cascade counties, almost due south of Great Falls between the Big Belt Mountains on the west and the Little Belt and Castle mountains on the east. The drainage is approximately 75 miles long and width varies from 3 to 45 miles. The total area is slightly over 2,000 square miles. The elevation of the floor of the drainage varies from 3,350 to 5,400 feet. The highest mountain peaks range from 8,500 to 9,500 feet.

The Smith River is formed by the junction of the North and South forks about 4 miles southwest of the town of White Sulphur Springs. The North Fork drains part of the southwest slopes of the Little Belt Mountains and the northwest slopes of the Castle Mountains. The South Fork originates along the southwest flank of the Castle Mountains and from the bench lands between the Castle and Big Belt mountains. Hot water springs occur in the confluence area between the North and South forks, as well as at the headwaters of the South Fork and serve to elevate water temperatures in reaches of the upper drainage. The mainstem of the Smith River then meanders northwesterly about 41 miles through a broad upper valley before entering a deep mountain canyon near the confluence of Sheep Creek. The river twists north for approximately 45 miles between high limestone cliffs and conifer and grass-covered mountains before flowing another 12 miles through foothill grasslands. After Hound Creek enters the Smith, the river meanders another 24 miles through a relatively narrow, agriculturally developed valley flanked by rolling grasslands until it joins the Missouri River near Ulm about 11 miles west of Great Falls.

In the early 1860s, the discovery of gold in the surrounding mountains stimulated a heavy influx of miners. As gold was depleted and mining operations abandoned, farming and ranching began to take over as the predominant land use in the basin, and they remain so today. Logging and recreation are other important land uses in the drainage.

Approximately 125 tributaries originate in the Big Belt and Little Belt mountains to join the Smith River. Some of the major tributaries originating in the Big Belt Mountains are Birch, Camas, Beaver, Rock, and Hound creeks. Those from the Little Belt Mountains are Newlan, Sheep, Eagle, Tenderfoot and Deep creeks.

Major reservoirs in the Smith River drainage include Newlan Creek and Smith River (Sutherlin) reservoirs. Both are in the Little Belt Mountains. High mountain lakes in the drainage are in the Big Belt Mountains and include Edith, Grace, Hidden, and Upper Baldy lakes. Other lakes with fisheries management or recreational importance include Crater and Gipsy lakes. In total there are 15 lakes or reservoirs and 801 surface acres in the drainage.

## **Fisheries Management**

The Smith River drainage holds about 1,220 miles of perennial streams, including approximately 100 named streams. There are approximately 741 miles of habitat capable of supporting salmonid fish in the drainage.

Between 1928 and 1973, approximately 3.5 million introduced trout were stocked in the mainstem Smith River. Tributaries to the river were also stocked with large numbers of introduced trout for

many years prior to 1973. Stocking of the Smith River was discontinued in 1974 and has subsequently been managed as a nationally renowned wild trout fishery.

Brook trout tend to dominate smaller, higher elevation streams, while rainbow trout and brown trout dominate the higher order, lower elevation streams. Native salmonids to the Smith River drainage include the extirpated Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout. While Arctic grayling are no longer present in the drainage, graylings were named from specimens taken at Camp Baker on the Smith River in 1872. Most extant populations of westslope cutthroat trout in the Smith River drainage reside in high elevation streams on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land; eight populations of nonhybridized westslope cutthroat trout occupy less than 3% of the historic range in the drainage.

The life history of fish and habitat use in the Smith River basin has been well studied in recent years. Telemetry work showed high use of the Smith River basin by rainbow trout and brown trout tagged in the Missouri and Sun rivers between Ulm and Great Falls. A graduate research project evaluating life history strategies of trout and whitefish in the Tenderfoot Creek documented extensive spawning use by Smith River fish, indicating that maintaining connectivity and habitat quality is beneficial to recruitment to the Smith River fishery. A subsequent graduate research effort expanded on this research to evaluate life history strategies of trout and whitefish throughout the drainage. This study demonstrated the importance of major tributaries, such as Tenderfoot, Sheep, Birch, and Rock creeks in supporting the fishery in the mainstem Smith River. The study documented watershed-scale movements by fish in the Smith River that were common, diverse, and overlapped resulting in a well-connected fishery.

In fall 2020, salmonid densities in the Eagle Creek section (located several miles below Camp Baker) were estimated at 414 rainbow trout per mile and 135 brown trout per mile. Long-term average abundance in this section is 439 rainbow trout per mile and 286 brown trout per mile. The Deep Creek section, located near the bottom of the canyon reach, has not been sampled in recent years. Trout populations tend to be lower there compared to those upstream in the Eagle Creek section. The mean number of rainbow and brown trout per mile were 168 and 270, respectively, based on 20 years of data gathered from 1970 to 2006. A new section was sampled on the Smith River five of the six years from 2015 through 2020 at the Cascade-Meagher County line, which is mid-canyon downstream of Tenderfoot Creek. The mean number of rainbow trout and brown trout were 271 and 344 fish per mile, respectively.

The fisheries resource is classified as high value by FWP for the floating section between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge, where most fishing pressure occurs. This section of the Smith River coincides with the Smith River State Park, and a permit is required for floating. An average of 15,318 angler days was estimated from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge from 2001 through 2019. Record angler use was estimated in 2019, with 31,954 angler days, representing a 64% increase in use over the previous high documented in 2017. In 2019, the average annual revenue generated by this reach of river was estimated at over \$13.5 million based on the purchase of nondurable goods ([Mullen, 2021](#)).

Although fish populations appear to be limited by environmental factors such as low summer streamflow, special regulations were implemented in the float section from Rock Creek to Eden Bridge in 1986. In 2004, the special regulations were extended upstream to include the entire float reach. In 2016, all streams and rivers changed to open all year, unless otherwise specified. While the Smith River was already open all year, this change resulted in Smith River tributaries being open all year. In 2020, special regulations were adopted on the lower portions of Sheep, Rock, Tenderfoot,

and Hound creeks to revert the fishing season back to the third Saturday in May through November 30. These regulations were deemed necessary to protect spawning fish in major tributaries of the float reach, given the increased use in early spring and reports of anglers targeting the tributaries.

Water temperature induced fishing restrictions are a recurring management strategy in drought years. High water temperatures in 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2022 caused FWP to implement hoot owl restrictions (no fishing from 2 p.m. to midnight) in summer and a complete fishing closure occurred in 2000. The Smith River is also one of 10 streams in Montana where FWP holds a Murphy water right implemented by the Montana Legislature and periodically calls on this priority water right to maintain instream flows and the aquatic community. From 2000 through 2021, FWP called on its Murphy water right 11 times. A water right call protocol was established by FWP in July 2022 and the department called on its Murphy water right in 2022.

## **Habitat**

Habitat conditions are variable between the different sections. Stream and riparian habitat have great fishery potential in the upper reaches from the headwaters of the mainstem to the upper end of the canyon (Spring Creek area) where the river meanders mostly through a broad, wide valley in a sinuous pattern. This section of stream almost resembles a large spring creek as it meanders through sedge and hay meadows. Its riparian zone would be dominated by willows and shrubs in a climax condition, and in reaches it contains good instream cover consisting of rooted aquatic vegetation and undercut banks. Other reaches are over-widened with little bank cover, which contributes to algal blooms and high water temperatures. Curlyleaf pondweed, an aquatic noxious weed, is present throughout the Smith River and can form dense mats in this reach. Substrate in this section is primarily silt and gravel. FWP desires to work with willing landowners to improve riparian areas while maintaining existing land uses.

In the canyon section just downstream of Spring Creek to Rattlesnake Boat Camp, the river is confined between steep limestone walls with limited floodplain development. Riparian vegetation consists primarily of grasses, some willows, pine, and fir trees. Deep pool habitat is common, and substrate is predominantly gravel and cobble.

In the grassland reach below the canyon, the river enters a broad valley of glacial silt, and trout habitat is relatively poor compared to upstream. Much of this section is heavily grazed, and riparian vegetation is limited. Instream habitat is poor due to annual dewatering. Downstream from Eden Bridge, many steep erosive banks occur along the stream. Substrate ranges from gravel and cobble in the upper end to sand and silt in the lower end, where the gradient decreases and the stream characteristics become more warm water in nature.

The mean discharge at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage near Fort Logan (river mile 83.7) was 148 cfs for the 23-year period of record (1978 to 2019). The mean annual discharge of the Smith River for a 23-year period (1997 to 2019) that encompass a substantial period of drought at the USGS gage below Eagle Creek (river mile 79.3) was 242 cfs and ranged from 105 to 518 cfs. Peak flows ranged from 472 cfs in 2001 to 4,030 cfs in 2011 below Eagle Creek. The mean discharge of the Smith River for a 24-year period (1952 to 2016) at the USGS gage near Eden (river mile 27) was 341 cfs and ranged from 107 to 716 cfs. Peak flows, based on 36 years of data for the Eden gage from 1951 through 2020, varied from 719 cfs in 1961 to 12,300 cfs in 1953.

Waters in the Smith River drainage have been appropriated for irrigation, livestock, and domestic uses. As in other areas of the state, appropriations are often several times the amount of water present. Frequent dewatering and subsequent warm water temperatures affect the trout fishery of the Smith River. Temperatures above 70 F, which are considered undesirable for trout growth and survival, occur in the river in summer; water temperatures as high as 83 F have been recorded. The low water levels and elevated water temperatures are probably the greatest factor limiting present game fish populations. Enhancing instream flows is key to benefitting the aquatic resources in the Smith River basin. Water quality, including excess nutrients and sediment are also of concern. At least three fish kills involving trout and mountain whitefish have been documented in the South Fork Smith, the mainstem near Eden Bridge, and in the mainstem at Fort Logan. The fish kills have occurred during periods of elevated water temperatures combined with dewatering of the river. Recurring fish kills involving stonecat have been reported in isolated lower sections of the floating reach over the past decade, generally occurring in late July. Investigations have not determined the cause, but disease or parasites and combined with stress are thought to be likely factors.

Nuisance algae blooms have been reported on the Smith River in several recent years, including within the float reach of the state park. Reported algae blooms were particularly extensive in the lower flow years of 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2022. Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) initiated a study of the nuisance algae blooms beginning in 2018 that has not yet been completed. Initial findings indicate warmer temperatures earlier in the year in June are conducive for rapid algae growth.

## **Special Management Issues**

### ***Smith River Management Act***

The Smith River Management Act, passed by the Legislature in 1989, delegates to FWP the primary recreational management responsibility for the Smith River waterway between Camp Baker access site and the mouth of the Smith River at the Missouri River. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has rulemaking authority to regulate recreational and commercial floating and camping use on the Smith River waterway. The Act included a section that provided for part of registration fees to be deposited into the Smith River corridor enhancement account to lease or acquire property in the corridor; develop projects that protect enhance and restore fisheries habitat, streambank stabilization, erosion control, and recreational values; and to maintain and enhance instream flows for recreational and aquatic values in the corridor. The FWP Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division administers both the recreation program and the corridor enhancement account.

### ***Smith River Basin-wide Assessment***

FWP has initiated a study utilizing the Smith River corridor enhancement account to identify and prioritize restoration opportunities that would improve the aquatic health of the Smith River watershed. The assessment will address all aspects of aquatic health, including water quality, water quantity, and stream and riparian habitat. Currently, watershed restoration projects are funded for habitat restoration infrequently and based on opportunity but may not provide the most benefit to the watershed compared to other unknown projects. This basin-wide study would take a systematic approach to identify areas of degradation, solutions to improve it, and prioritize them based on how

much of a benefit the project would have to improving the health of the watershed. The basin-wide assessment would serve as a guiding document for future watershed restoration efforts and result in more efficient use of Smith River corridor enhancement account funds and other restoration funds. The department has engaged local community groups that have expressed interest in providing input and being involved with the study. It is anticipated that the final report with community presentation will occur in the spring of 2024.

### ***Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation***

The Smith River drainage is home to several conservation populations of westslope cutthroat trout, providing opportunities to conserve this native species in the drainage. Populations currently exist in Big Camas, Cottonwood, Daniels, Deep, Fourmile, French, Iron Mines, Jumping, Lake, Lone Willow, Pickfoot, South Fork Tenderfoot, South Fork Willow, Tenderfoot, Thompson Gulch, Tyrell, and Urvi creeks. The short-term goal is to protect all remaining nonhybridized populations of westslope cutthroat trout. The long-term goal of cutthroat trout conservation in the Smith River drainage is to have approximately 20% of the historical range restored to secure conservation populations of cutthroat trout (see Part 1, 1.6.8(1) Westslope Cutthroat Trout).

To meet the short-term goals of westslope cutthroat trout conservation within the drainage, a headwater expansion project is underway in Fourmile Creek. This population occupies a short reach of stream approximately 0.75-miles in length bounded by two bedrock barriers on the downstream and upstream ends of occupied habitat. There is an estimated 1.96 miles of unoccupied habitat located upstream of the current westslope cutthroat trout occupied habitat. Transferring fish would allow this population to grow by an estimated 772 additional fish based on current downstream densities. This population represents one of only four known nonhybridized Smith River lineages of westslope cutthroat trout and is of high conservation priority.

An ongoing project in Big Camas Creek is underway to secure a conservation population of westslope cutthroat trout. Camas Lake and Big Camas Creek were chemically treated to remove non-native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in 2014. Westslope cutthroat trout restoration began in 2015 following the previous year's piscicide treatment. However, a small number of Yellowstone cutthroat trout were found to have persisted in the Camas Lake/Big Camas Creek system. A mechanical removal project is underway to reduce the threat of competition and reduce the number of Yellowstone cutthroat trout that can hybridize with the native westslope cutthroat trout.

### ***Priority Drought Waters***

Sections of the Smith River that have traditionally been affected by drought restrictions are identified below (Table 2.21-1). Native and non-native trout populations have been affected by high water temperatures and low flow levels during summer drought periods historically and will likely continue to be impacted. Classification, criteria, and measurements apply to the entire reach; however, implementation of restrictions may occur in all or parts of individual reaches depending on temperature, flow, and angling pressure at that time.

Table 2.21-1: Designated hoot owl reaches where drought related fishing restrictions and closures due to fishing pressure, high water temperatures, and/or low flows are expected to be implemented.

Drought related restrictions and closures may also be placed on waters not listed here or in shorter reaches within the boundaries listed below.

Waterbody	Reach	Classification	Criteria
<b>Smith River</b>	Eden Bridge to the confluence of the North Fork Smith River and South Fork Smith River (RM 22.4 to 121)	Non-native salmonid sport fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily maximum river temperature reaches or exceeds 73°F for 3 consecutive days or stream flows fall below the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile of daily mean values for the date.</li> <li>• Measurements relevant for criteria will occur at USGS gage 06077200 below Eagle Creek. Temperature measurements will also depend on portable temperature recorders throughout the basin.</li> <li>• Lifting of restrictions may be delayed until adequate flows are present to provide fish cover.</li> </ul>

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR SMITH RIVER DRAINAGE

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
North Fork Smith River	42.7 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain a recreational fishery within historic levels.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to improve instream flows, habitat, and water quality. Maintain habitat and instream flows of 9 cfs					
Fourmile Creek, Richardson Creek	8.0 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild/ Transfer	Conservation	Maintain or enhance populations to reduce extirpation risk.
		Westslope cutthroat trout x Rainbow trout hybrids	Wild	General	Monitor population and evaluate effects on westslope cutthroat trout population.
		Brook trout	Wild	General	Monitor population and if determined that brook trout are negatively influencing westslope cutthroat trout, evaluate opportunities for suppression or removal.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to expand distribution of nonhybridized westslope cutthroat trout population in headwaters. Explore opportunities to establish westslope cutthroat trout in unnamed tributary (Beartrap Creek).					
Lake Creek, Crater Lake	1.8 miles 1.7 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild/ Transfer	Conservation	Maintain or enhance populations to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities for genetic rescue (reciprocal transfer) with Fourmile Creek westslope cutthroat trout.					
Lone Willow Creek, Lone Willow Pond	2.4 miles 1.0 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities for genetic rescue (reciprocal transfer) with Fourmile Creek westslope cutthroat trout.					
South Fork Willow Creek,	2.0 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Willow Creek Reservoir	0.1 acre	Brook trout	Wild	General	Monitor population and if determined that brook trout are negatively influencing westslope cutthroat trout, evaluate opportunities for suppression or removal.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to expand distribution of nonhybridized westslope cutthroat trout population in headwaters.					
Smith River (Sutherlin) Reservoir	377 acres	Rainbow trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
		Mountain whitefish (N)	Wild	General	Maintain population within historic levels.
		Burbot (N)	Wild	General	Maintain population and recreational fishery for consumptive harvest.
		Kokanee salmon	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
Habitat needs and activities: Finish analysis of 2021 creel survey and recent sampling data. Continue to evaluate stocking efforts to enhance fishery. Adjust regulations and stocking plans, as necessary.					
South Fork Smith River	42 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain recreational fishery within historic levels.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to improve instream flows, habitat, and water quality. Maintain habitat and instream flows of 7 cfs.					
Cottonwood Creek	3.7 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore potential barrier sites to prevent non-native fish migration into Cottonwood Creek.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Smith River (confluence of the North and South forks to the confluence of Sheep Creek)	41 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain a recreational fishery within historic levels.
		Mountain whitefish (N)	Wild	General	Maintain populations within historic levels.
		Burbot (N)	Wild	General	Maintain populations within historic levels.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to improve instream flows, habitat, and water quality. Maintain habitat and instream flow reservation of 78.5 cfs. Protect Murphy rights, which are 150 cfs from 5/1-6/30 and 90 cfs from 7/1-4/30. Improve habitat and flow conditions as opportunities allow.					
Newlan Creek	21.7 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain a recreational fishery within historic levels.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 3.8 cfs. Consider potential for conveyance of stored water to enhance instream flows in the Smith River. Evaluate potential solutions to reduce impacts from sediment transport from trans-basin diversion ditch.					
Newlan Creek Reservoir	265 acres	Rainbow trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
		Westslope cutthroat trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
		Brown trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
		Kokanee salmon	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational fishery for consumptive harvest by continued stocking.
		Burbot (N)	Wild	General	Maintain population and recreational fishery for consumptive harvest.
Habitat needs and activities: Finish analysis of 2021 creel survey and recent sampling data. Continue to evaluate stocking efforts to enhance fishery. Adjust regulations and stocking plans as necessary.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Big Birch Creek	14.4 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 11 cfs.					
Edith Lake Upper Baldy Lake Grace Lake	10.7 acres 6.9 acres 7.1 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-and-Take	Maintain recreational mountain lake fishery by continued biennial stocking.
Habitat needs and activities: Continue to maintain recreation fishery through stocking. Consider adjusting stocking rates as needed.					
Hidden Lake	12.1 acres	Rainbow trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, Hybrid rainbow x westslope	Wild	Put-Grow-and-Take	Mountain lake fishery maintained by natural reproduction. Explore opportunity to introduce Arctic grayling to provide additional angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to introduce Arctic grayling to establish a naturally reproducing conservation population or establish by stocking.					
Gipsy Lake	7.0 acres	Rainbow trout	Hatchery	General	Explore opportunities to convert to westslope cutthroat trout fishery.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to establish westslope cutthroat trout by stocking.					
Big Camas Creek, Camas Lake	1.0 miles 8.0 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)  Yellowstone cutthroat trout	Wild/ Transfer, Hatchery  Wild	Conservation  Suppression	Maintain population of >90% westslope cutthroat trout genetic contribution.  Mechanically remove to reduce hybridization risk with westslope cutthroat trout.
Habitat needs and activities: Mechanically remove Yellowstone cutthroat trout to reduce competition and minimize hybridization with westslope cutthroat trout.					
Middle Fork Big Camas Creek	1.0 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild/ Transfer	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to expand distribution of nonhybridized westslope cutthroat trout population in headwaters.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Thompson Gulch	2.0 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Update genetic and demographic monitoring.					
Sheep Creek	36.6 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
		Mountain whitefish (N)	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 35 cfs. Monitor developments and activity associated with the approved mine, including monitoring activities.					
Daniels Creek	2.6 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
		Brook trout	Wild	General	Monitor population and evaluate effects on westslope cutthroat trout population.
Jumping Creek	3.2 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild/ Transfer	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Smith River (confluence of Sheep Creek to the confluence of Hound Creek)	73.6 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout	Wild	Restrictive Regulations	Maintain a recreational fishery within historic population levels.
		Mountain whitefish (N), Burbot (N)	Wild	General	Maintain populations within historic levels.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to improve instream flows, habitat, and water quality. Maintain habitat and instream flow reservation of 150 cfs. Protect Murphy rights, which vary from 125-400 cfs depending on location and time of year.					
Rock Creek	22.8 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain populations within historic levels providing for recreational use.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 11 cfs.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
French Creek	1.5 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Tenderfoot Creek	25.9 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
		Westslope cutthroat trout x Rainbow trout hybrids	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
		Mountain whitefish (N)	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 15 cfs.					
Iron Mines Creek	4.5 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
		Brook trout	Wild	General	Monitor population and evaluate effects on westslope cutthroat trout population.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to enhance natural bedrock barrier to preclude upstream movement of nonnative trout.					
South Fork Tenderfoot Creek	3.2 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Urvi Creek	0.1 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to expand distribution of westslope cutthroat trout population in 1.6 miles of fishless headwaters.					
Deep Creek	8 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to expand distribution of westslope cutthroat trout population in headwaters of South Fork Deep Creek above bedrock barrier.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Hound Creek	25.2 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
		Mountain whitefish (N)	Wild	General	Maintain resident and Smith River spawning populations.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 35 cfs.					
Tyrell Creek, Hound Creek Reservoir	6.4 miles 22 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild/ Transfer	Conservation	Maintain or enhance population to reduce extirpation risk.
Smith River (confluence of Hound Creek to the mouth)	24 miles	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Mountain whitefish (N), Burbot (N), Walleye	Wild	General	Maintain populations within historic levels providing for a recreational fishery.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain habitat and instream flows of 80 cfs.					
Westslope cutthroat trout genetically unaltered conservation population streams (isolated single species populations)	20.2 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Maintain and protect populations to reduce extirpation risk. When biologically feasible provide for limited consumptive use.
Habitat needs and activities: Seek opportunities to survey for the presence of westslope cutthroat trout and possible restoration projects.					
Westslope cutthroat trout genetically	49.8 miles	Westslope cutthroat trout & hybrids	Wild	Conservation	Maintain and protect populations. Allow harvest in robust populations.

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
altered conservation population streams (mixed populations)					
High mountain lakes in Big Belt Mtns (6 lakes)	59 acres	Westslope cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout	Hatchery/ Wild	Put-Grow-and-Take/ Quality/ Conservation	Maintain populations for recreational fishery where natural reproduction is limited. Explore opportunities to convert naturally reproducing populations to westslope cutthroat trout or Arctic grayling populations.
Habitat needs and activities: Explore opportunities to improve spawning potential in some lakes.					
Private/public ponds with public access		Trout	Hatchery/ Wild	Put-and-Take	Maintain existing pond fisheries available to the public for harvest.
Habitat needs and activities: Enhance structure in ponds when possible and needed. Seek additional opportunities.					